

## **E-newsletter November 2006**

Dear Colleague,

American Indian Heritage Month is recognized each November as a time to learn more about the history and heritage of Native American peoples. Click on the NCTE Inbox to see classroom ideas.

Please share this e-newsletter with your teaching friends. Invite them to subscribe by e-mailing us at [teacher\\_center@wsboces.org](mailto:teacher_center@wsboces.org) with their names and e-mail addresses. We will promptly add them to our subscription list.

*Jane, Carol and Elyse*

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### **A Light Touch**

**For Lexophiles (lovers of words)**

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

A will is a dead giveaway.

A backward poet writes inverse.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

A calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

A short fortuneteller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

**More Wordplay**

1. How Do You Catch a Unique Rabbit?  
Unique Up On It
2. How Do You Catch a Tame Rabbit?  
Tame Way, Unique Up On It.
3. How Do Crazy People Go Through The Forest?  
They Take The Psycho Path
6. What Do Eskimos Get From Sitting On The Ice too Long?  
Polaroid's
7. What Do You Call a Boomerang That Doesn't Work  
A Stick
8. What Do You Call Cheese That Isn't Yours?  
Nacho Cheese.
10. What Do You Call Four Bullfighters In Quicksand?  
Quattro Sinko
11. What Do You Get From a Pampered Cow?  
Spoiled Milk.
12. What Do You Get When You Cross a Snowman With a Vampire?  
Frostbite!
13. What Lies At The Bottom Of The Ocean And Twitches?  
A Nervous Wreck.
14. What's The Difference Between Roast Beef And Pea Soup?  
Anyone Can Roast Beef.
18. What Kind Of Coffee Was Served On The Titanic?  
Sanka
19. What Is The Difference Between a Harley And a Hoover?  
The Location Of The Dirt Bag.
20. Why Did Pilgrims' Pants Always Fall Down?  
Because They Wore Their Belt Buckle On Their Hat.

**FYI**

The OWL Teacher Center presents **Afternoons with Artists.** The series features some of the most talented artists to be found in the Long Island area. Each artist will disclose facts and feelings about his/her craft. Classroom teachers K-12 will gain new insights into the creative process, which can be developed into teaching strategies for integrated instruction. **NOTE: The grade levels for each workshop are suggested levels of suitability, but can be attended by all teachers of grades K-12 and special areas.**

Attend any one or all of these seminars. Each seminar is equivalent to 3 contact hours. Fee for each seminar: \$7. All seminars run on **Mondays from 4-7 PM** on the dates below.

**November 27 ~ Ronn Kistler:** *Teaching Curriculum through the Arts (Grades K-6).* Learn

games and activities from this specialist in teaching curriculum through the arts. Design lessons which include dramatization and exploration of folktales, stories and poetry.

**December 4 ~ Mary Beth Spann:** *Making Books with Children...Publishing Children's Writing* (Grades K-3)

**December 11 ~ Nancy Walsh:** *Using the Language of Art for Visual Literacy* (Grades K-6)  
Learn to use the steps of art analysis to promote discussion and understanding, practice language skills, formulate opinions, compare and contrast artwork, and use works of art as tools to connect other areas of the curriculum.

To register, call 631-226-2772 or e-mail [owlcenter@optonline.net](mailto:owlcenter@optonline.net)

**November 29, 2006, Hyatt-Regency Windwatch, 1717 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, New York 11788, (631) 784-1234, <http://windwatch.hyatt.com>**

**December 4th, 2006: Yonkers/White Plains**

**January 23rd, 2007: Albany NY State Regional CTERC (Career and Technical Education Resource Center) Regional Conferences.** For more information contact CTE at 518.283.3107, FAX: 518.283.3053.

**December 1, 2006, 7:30 AM-10 AM, NYIT deSeversky Center in Old Westbury,**  
ITRC & NYIT are co-sponsoring a Breakfast Buffet & Brainstorming Session for **Supt./Asst Supt/TC Directors** to provide info on the design of customized programs to meet district needs on- Online Child Exploitation Prevention, Understanding Racism & Prejudice in Schools Violence, Gangs & Teacher Protection, Extremist Groups and more. A special presentation will be made by Professor Edward Maggio, Esq., Director of Center for Security and Disaster Response & Asst. Professor of Criminal Justice. **Registration fee: \$13pp.**  
**Includes a full breakfast buffet. Please RSVP to [maugusta@nyit.edu](mailto:maugusta@nyit.edu) by Nov. 22nd**

**December 1 deadline.** The NYSCA funded school/arts partnership grant administered by the East End Arts Council now has extended the allotted deadline by one month. The awards for matching funds have also increased from a maximum of \$3,000 to \$5,000. If you missed this round of grants, you can get an early start by forging connections and collaborating on a project plan now! One way to do that is to join the Arts in Education Roundtable and meet your colleagues at the Roundtable meetings. If you have questions about the grant or wish to have your name included in the Arts in Education Roundtable mailing list, please contact Ray Saltini at (631) 610-8993 or at [rsaltini@optonline.net](mailto:rsaltini@optonline.net).

**December 6, 2007** Come join us at the next **Long Island Arts in Education Roundtable**

meeting on December 6! The meeting will take place at Martha Clara Vineyards at 1:00pm. Find out about funding opportunities, how to go about making partnership connections, and get in the know about future professional development opportunities. You can make friends and spread some Holiday cheer, too! Martha Clara Vineyards is located on Sound Avenue in Jamesport. Please RSVP at (631) 610-8993 or by e-mail at [rsaltini@optonline.net](mailto:rsaltini@optonline.net).

**January 29, 2007, 12:30 PM** Get your pencils and put this in your calendar: The first **Roundtable** meeting of 2007 will be at the Nassau County Museum. We'll have the entire museum to ourselves after the meeting so those that are able to attend will get a rare opportunity for a private tour and look "behind the curtain" of one of our most inspirational places on Long Island.

**Tuesdays, Feb. 27; Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 (Part 1)**

**April 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15 (Part 2) Time: 4-7 pm, Course: Teacher Leader Skills for Professional Development,**

**Part 1: *How to Construct a Course:*** Learn what current research tells us about effective staff development while creating a workshop/course around your area of expertise.

**Part 2: *Facilitating Study Groups & Professional Conversations:*** Facilitation skills will be presented, discussed and modeled, as will development of probing questions, icebreakers, and activities based upon the elements of adult learning theory.

***Instructor: Charlotte Galluccio***

**Site:** Lindenhurst Administration Bldg, OWL Teacher Center

**Fee:** \$70                      30 hours, 2 ins. credits                      K-12

To register, contact OWL Teacher Center 350 Daniel St. Room 107 Lindenhurst, NY 11757. Phone: 631-226-2772, e-mail [owlcenter@optonline.net](mailto:owlcenter@optonline.net)

**May 2-4, 2007. NYS Staff Development Conference at the Rochester Hyatt**

**Regency.** Please consider presenting. Share attached RFP for presenters with other interested staff developers/networks. For conference registration information visit their website [www.nyssdc.org](http://www.nyssdc.org)

[NYSSDC Conference RFP 2007.pdf](#)

## **Worthwhile Websites**

**Off the Beaten Path: 7 Sites for students and teachers to explore**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/blackhole/>. Nova and PBS science collaborating on science shows. Black Holes here.

<http://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/flemish/home.html> Illuminating the Renaissance

<http://www.imaginationcubed.com/LaunchPage> GE Imagination at Work

<http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/2004/maya/palenque.html> Mayan art

<http://www.learn-spanish.co.il/> Learn Spanish

<http://www.calculateme.com/> Calculate Me

<http://learningobjects.wesleyan.edu/vim/> Virtual Instrument Museum

#### **Literacy Coaching Clearinghouse Opens**

<http://www.ncte.org/about/over/inbox/125928.htm> The Web-based Clearinghouse provides access to research and best practice, enhancing the knowledge base coaches rely on as they work within schools and districts to create excellent reading instruction in all classrooms.

<http://www.classtrips.com/> ClassTrips.com is a comprehensive listing of day, overnight and travel trips for school, scout and youth groups, with over 500 types of trips to select from. Trips are coded by grade level, curriculum subject, state learning standards that they support, and scout merit badge achievements.

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/americanmasters/> This site uses materials from the PBS American Masters series to create interactive resources for students reading two classic works of American literature. PBS is asking for feedback on this American Masters website, so please review the site and e-mail your feedback to [prairietoparis@thirteen.org](mailto:prairietoparis@thirteen.org)

<http://www.educationworld.com/OnlineDegree.shtml> **FREE** Information from Online Universities. Online Degree Directory.

#### **TIPS LIBRARY From Education World Weekly**

[Classroom Management Tips](#): Volume 13

[Behavior Management Tips](#): Volume 13

[Motivating Kids](#): Volume 13

## Tech Tips of the Week

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/management\\_tips/management\\_tips013.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/management_tips/management_tips013.shtml)

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/behaviortips/behaviortips013.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/behaviortips/behaviortips013.shtml)

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/motivation/motivation013.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/motivation/motivation013.shtml)

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_tech/tech\\_tips/tech\\_tips013.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech_tips/tech_tips013.shtml)

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/Login.aspx?redirectUrl=%2fNovember%2fEntry.aspx>

Box Tops for Education has helped America's schools earn over \$175 million in just over 10 years. Learn more about how you can make a difference for your school with Box Tops.

## NCTE Inbox

### News

**"Helicopter" Parents Try Too Hard** (*The Boston Globe*, November 7, 2006) A

"helicopter" parent is a parent who hovers over every aspect of their child's life, from kindergarten through college. Now college career counselors and professional recruiters say those parents are injecting themselves into their child's job search. School officials and employers say it's a problem that is hampering young people's careers

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2006/11/07/helicopter\\_parents\\_try\\_too\\_hard](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2006/11/07/helicopter_parents_try_too_hard)

**English Instruction Struggling to Keep Up** (*The Denver Post*, November 3, 2006)

Colorado is struggling to find teachers who are qualified to teach both core subjects and English Language Learners. A recent report indicates that Colorado's public school population not proficient in English grew 238 percent from 1995 to 2005.

[http://test.denverpost.com/extremes/ci\\_4594695](http://test.denverpost.com/extremes/ci_4594695)

**Students, Officials Locking Horns over Blogs** (*USA Today*, October 26, 2006)

School boards across the country have already limited student access to online social network sites on school grounds. However, some school districts are punishing students for what they write on those sites from home.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2006-10-25-school-blogs\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2006-10-25-school-blogs_x.htm)

**You Can't Publish That!** (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, October 29, 2006) More and more

high school student newspapers are facing censorship from school administrators. NCTE member Hal Waller is quoted in this article.

<http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD/MGArticle/>

[RTD\\_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149191400059](#)

**NCTE Supports Student Freedom of Speech and Press** NCTE believes student publications should have the right to freedom of speech and the press. See

<http://www.ncte.org/about/over/positions/category/cens/107395.htm>.

For help with fighting challenges to freedom of speech in student publications, contact the Student Press Law Center at <http://www.splc.org>.

For resources on student journalism, see information on the NCTE Assembly for Advisers of Student Publications/Journalism Education Association (AASP/JEA) at <http://www.ncte.org/groups/assm/list/109485.htm> and the JEA Web site at <http://www.jea.org>.

**Book Fairs: Reading Might Not Be Dead** (*The New York Times*, October 20, 2006)

High tech toys and games may not be driving books and literature to the history museums. There are several large book fairs across the country, and those book fairs are increasing in popularity. <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/20/travel/escapes/20ahead.html>

## Ideas

**Focus on Native American Heritage.** National American Indian Heritage Month is recognized each November as a time to learn more about the history and heritage of Native American peoples. These resources provide strategies to explore Native American literature and heritage in your own classroom.

Read the *Talking Points* article "[To Feel the Fear of It: Engaging Young People in Social Education](#)" (E) for strategies to use drama to forge a deeper understanding of historical events and the limits of many historically recorded outcomes. The article focuses on an inquiry project exploring the Cherokee Trail of Tears.

"[Making Connections: Hypertext and Research in a Middle School Classroom](#)" (M) describes how students investigated and researched a poem of their own choice by a Native American poet, and wrote a hypertext web of their research journey. See the [ReadWriteThink calendar entry](#) for Native American Heritage Month for links to a lesson plan based on this article, as well as additional K-12 resources.

The September 2003 *English Journal* article "[Hoop Dancing: Literature Circles and Native American Storytelling](#)" (S) explores strategies teachers can use to address the misrepresentations of Indian culture through the study of Native American oral traditions

and literatures.

Read "[Methods of Memory: On Native American Storytelling](#)" (C) to explore ways that memory is seen through an already existing story or recognized as a familiar category of experience that is widely shared in Native American storytelling.

Go to [Writing Bug: A Native American Proverb](#)

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/writing\\_bug/writingbug104.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/writing_bug/writingbug104.shtml)

[Activities to Celebrate Native American Heritage](#) November is National American Indian Heritage Month. Education World offers 12 lessons to help students learn about Native American history and cultures. Included: Activities that involve students in dramatizing folktales, learning new words, preparing traditional foods, and much more.

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_special/native\\_americans.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/native_americans.shtml)

**Exploring Literature with ELL and ESL Students.** As the number of English language learners in our classrooms increases, teachers are challenged to find meaningful ways to teach language in context. These resources suggest ways to discuss language issues in the context of literary discussions, giving teachers the chance to connect with these students in pedagogically useful ways.

The *Language Arts* article "[The Inquiry Acts of Bilingual Children in Literature Discussions](#)" (E) focuses on a second-grade discussion of the Tomie dePaola picture book *Oliver Button Is a Sissy* and the contexts that mediated their inquiries.

"[Helping ELLs Look at Stories through Literary Lenses](#)" (M), from *Voices from the Middle*, explores the ways that competence in social communication may disguise difficulty with understanding and generating academic language, and offers specific strategies for teaching academic language within the context of literature study to build a foundation for current and future academic success.

Metaphorical language is a particular challenge to English language learners. The *English Journal* article "[Don't Keep Them in the Dark! Teaching Metaphors to English Language Learners](#)" (S) shares lessons to provide students with "opportunities and resources to gain this language and thinking power."

ESL students in their first year of college discuss their feelings about the use of literature in composition courses and offer qualified support for its inclusion in the *Teaching English in the Two-Year College* article "[ESL Students and the Use of Literature in Composition Courses](#)" (C).

## **In the News**

### **Eye on Curriculum**

**U.S. schools seek to retool math instruction.** Reform math advocates, who say children need to have conceptual understanding of what they're doing, argue the traditional approach produced youngsters who simply memorized and parroted back answers. The pendulum seems to be shifting back toward a focus on memorizing time tables and mastering other basic math skills, however, due in part to the lackluster performance of American students on international and state math exams. [The New York Times](#) (11/14)

**High school students embody spoken expression.** South Florida initiatives are giving high school students the chance to express their thoughts through spoken-word workshops and poetry slams. The literary expression programs, such as Wordspeak and Louder Than Life, have allowed students to share ideas and feel a sense of empowerment while improving their articulation skills. [The Miami Herald](#) (free registration) (11/12)

**"Options" course gives Minnesota students confidence.** High school students in a hands-on "options" course have been given the opportunity to participate in community service projects and sports programs, using the on-site experience to build positive momentum for their own lives. The Oak Grove High School students in Shoreview, Minn., said they plan to use the confidence-building, real-world experience as they plan for their futures. [Twincities.com](#) (11/13)

**Vocational education reinvents itself.** Schools have replaced the low-tech shop classes of yesteryear with academically rigorous courses preparing students for work in such fields as veterinary medicine, robotics and computer networking. Experts say today's students must plan to attend college if they're to compete in the global marketplace. [The Philadelphia Inquirer/The Chicago Tribune](#) (free registration) (11/8)

**Early-college programs designed for at-risk students.** Some high schools are offering free, career-oriented early-college programs to dropouts and students at risk of quitting school to engage them in their classes and give them a jump-start on advanced coursework while they pursue their high school diplomas. At one California academy, 31 of the 50 students in such a program earned an associate's degree, and all were admitted to four-year institutions. [The Washington Post](#) (free registration) (11/7)

**New council to focus on needs of Hispanic students.** Pearson Education has created a council of 17 school district leaders with Hispanic ancestry to develop better ways to help schools serve the nation's rapidly growing population of English-language learners. The firm earlier this year acquired a provider of English language training software for English-learners. [eSchool News](#) (free registration) (11/1)

### Learning and Teaching

**Report: British reading program yields striking results.** A new British reading scheme that has raised young children's reading age by 21 months with just 16 to 20 weeks of instruction -- four times faster than the traditional approach -- features interventions individually tailored to struggling readers, parental involvement and close coordination between reading recovery staff and classroom teachers. The literacy gains achieved by the program continue years after intervention took place. [The Guardian \(London\)](#) (11/7)

**Discrete math encourages pupils to think outside the box.** Discrete math, now included among the standards of the National Council of Teachers of Math, can, through its puzzle-like problems set in real-world contexts, help students master new concepts and think creatively, writes educator Linda Wiegenfeld. She says discrete math can be introduced at all grade levels, even to children who don't yet read fluently. [The Epoch Times](#) (10/30)

### Professional Leadership

**Report: Fewer men in teaching.** Only 24.5% of America's public school teachers were men in 2004-05, the highest gender imbalance in 40 years, finds an NEA report. Money was as an important factor. [The Arizona Republic \(Phoenix\)/Gannett News Service](#) (11/14)

**Commentary: Merit-pay plan misguided.** Bonuses that tie teacher performance to classroom evaluations and student test scores don't address good working conditions and competitive salaries, which are stronger incentives, writes National Education Association President Reg Weaver. He cites a Harvard Business Review study of the corporate world that found individual merit-pay plans, while popular, can undermine teamwork and cause employees to focus on short-term goals. [The Christian Science Monitor](#) (11/13)

### Technology Solutions

**Schools uses Web site as anonymous tip line.** A handful of Houston-area schools have joined scores of others nationwide using a private system that allows students to anonymously e-mail administrators about bullying, weapons possession or other safety concerns involving themselves or fellow students. Some teachers and counselors at one Houston high school occasionally read teens' Web pages to determine if their students are dealing with depression or other problems. [Houston Chronicle](#) (11/13)

**Minnesota district gets a boost from virtual schools.** Launching two online schools for students statewide four years ago has turned out to be an enrollment and funding boon for Houston, Minn., a small district that until that time had been slowly but steadily losing students. Superintendent Kim Ross says the initiative -- which has attracted about 850 virtual students, each accompanied by about \$5,000 in state aid -- has shielded the district from the fiscal pressures most districts face. [Star Tribune \(Minneapolis-St. Paul\)](#) (free registration) (11/9)

**Survey: More students taking online college courses.** The number of college students taking online courses grew by nearly 40% -- or 850,000 additional students -- between 2004 and 2005, with the increase seen in schools ranging from those offering associate's degrees to those with doctoral programs, [reports](#) a consortium of colleges committed to online education. The rise in enrollment numbers could stem in part, however, from the survey's counting traditional courses as online classes if professors posted class assignments online or held discussions in group forums. [The Washington Times/Associated Press](#) (11/9)

**Report: Virtual school enrollment soars.** Thirty-eight states now regulate or sponsor virtual learning programs, while enrollment in online K-12 courses has soared over the past year, finds a [report](#) released by the North American Council for Online Learning at its annual Virtual School Symposium. The group also released the results of a separate [survey](#) that provided snapshots of virtual learning programs in 30 different countries. [eSchool News](#) (free registration)

### **Policy Watch**

**U.S. Supreme Court to hear school-assignment cases.** The U.S. Supreme Court will hear two cases from the Seattle and Louisville, Ky., school districts in December that center around whether public schools can use race as a factor when assigning students to schools. School system defendants say such policies are necessary to ensure diversity, but plaintiff

parents, who, in both lawsuits, are white, argue that using race violates the Constitution's guarantee of equality. [USA TODAY](#) (11/14)

**Study: School reform models rarely adopted wholesale.** School reform models often aren't fully implemented, which is why many have little to no impact, Rand researchers report. Schools are most likely to adopt the suggested curriculum of a model, less likely to implement its teaching practices and least likely to follow recommendations that boost parental involvement, the study found. [Arizona Daily Star \(Tucson\)/Bloomberg](#) (11/10)

**Analysis: Democratic wins could usher in better school funding.** Many education observers say Democratic leaders in Congress could promote a legislative agenda that addresses federal education funding, 21st-century work force preparation and reauthorization of NCLB, now that the party has taken control of the House and may also end up winning the Senate. [eSchool News](#) (free registration)

## NCLB

**Some parents, teens balk at NCLB rule on military recruiters.** Opponents of the NCLB policy that requires high schools to share student contact info with military recruiters are advising parents and teens that they may "opt out" of having such information released. Recruiters are not barred from contacting prospective candidates, however, if they get the information through other means, such as during schools' career days or in response to a student-initiated query. [USA TODAY](#) (11/2)

**Opinion: American education system can't fulfill NCLB's promise.** NCLB by itself can't get all children proficient in reading and math by 2014, because the federal law never changed the fundamental "institutional architecture" of an American public education system that puts its own needs before those of children, argues former deputy secretary of education Eugene Hickok. At best, he concludes, the law serves as a "wake-up call" that what's needed is "an American education revolution," which Hickok says is necessary to give families control over their children's education. [The Washington Post](#) (10/27)

## In the Field

**Off-Broadway show taps into joys, frustrations of teaching.** Thousands of teachers over the past six months have attended "No Child," a one-woman off-Broadway show that chronicles the tale of a Bronx drama teacher as she struggles to put on a class play.

Playwright Nilaja Sun, who spent eight years as a guest artist in New York City schools, says she can tell when teachers are in the audience by their reaction to certain lines in the script. [The New York Times](#) (free registration) (11/8)

**Afghan tribal leaders move to protect schools.** Tribal elders in one southern Afghan province are helping the government reopen schools by promising to protect the facilities against insurgent attacks. A United Nations spokesman called for the initiative to be extended to other southern provinces, where more than 200,000 children have been deprived of education after 150 schools were set on fire. [Reuters/IRIN](#) (11/7)

**New council to focus on needs of Hispanic students.** Pearson Education has created a council of 17 school district leaders with Hispanic ancestry to develop better ways to help schools serve the nation's rapidly growing population of English-language learners. The firm earlier this year acquired a provider of English language training software for English-learners. [eSchool News](#) (free registration) (11/1)

*If you have any doubts that we live in a society controlled by men, try reading down the index of contributors to a volume of quotations, looking for women's names."*

*--Elaine Gill,  
American author*